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ARMS AND THE WOMAN. (Centinued from Sixth Page).

the was one of the most noted pisshot and swordsmen on the centit and that if I had any particular ard for my epidermis I would cease attendance on the princess at once. s of course made me more attentive n ever, for I can hold my own with may when it comes to pistols, and try me. a handle the rapier with some suc- I laughed. I was so insanely happy,

was one night at the opera that clinax was brought about. I sat one of the stalls diagonally across m the royal box where she sat. She v me and gave me the barest god of ognition. Perhaps she did not wish attract the attention of the royal sonages who sat with her, for the struck me as clandestine. Between first and second acts a note was oded to me. It was not addressed. ther was it signed. But it was for . The bearer spoke my name. As

ned these words: A carriage will await you two cks south. It will be without lights. u wilk enter it exactly ten minutes er the opera is ended."

r as & can remember the note con

hat was all, but it was enough. princess gazing intently at me. 1 arded with a smile which set my d to sushing. I made little out of last act. I could not dream what anonymous note had behind it. I picioned an intrigue, but what use she for me, an American, a very body? Fomethiag unusual was about take prace, and I was to be a wits or a participant of it. That was far as my talent for logical deducn went. Promptly at the stated be I stood at the side of the carriage. was the plainest sort of an affair. idently it had been bired for the ocsion. The door opened.

Step in monsieur," said a low voice French. I obeyed. The horse start-As we spun along the pavement a ht flashed into the window. The ncess sat before me. There was a ging in my ears, and I breathed ickly. But I said no word. It was her to speak first.

"Monsieur is an American," she ben. "The American is of a chivalric

That should be the aim of all men,

eplied. But it is not so. Monsieur, I have en studying you for the past week. night I place my honor and my fame your hands. It is for you to prove at you are a knight. I trust you. hen I have said what I shall say to u, you may withdraw or give me

our aid, as you please." "I am grateful for your confidence, our highness," said I. "What is it

at you wish me to do?" "Have patience, monsieur, till the de is done," she said. "Do not speak ain till I permit you. I must think." The journey was accomplished in

"It is here, monsieur, that we alight." said as the carriage stopped.

was glad that her opera cloak was dark material and that she wore a

The building before which we stood as on the butskirts of the city. Far to my left I could see the flickerg lights of the palaces. A yellowish ze hung ever all. Once within the allding I noted with surprise the luxlous appointments. Plainly it was common in, a resort for the middle d traveling classes. Whether it was tronized by the nobility I could only

"We shall continue to speak in

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French," she said as she threw back her cloak and lifted her veil. "Monsieur has probably heard that the Princess Hildegarde is a creature of extravagant caprices, and he expects an escapade."

"Your highness wrongs me," I protested. "I am an obscure American. Your highness does not share your-

I stopped, not wishing to give the term escapade to anything she might do. As a matter of fact she has caused her reyal guardian, the king, no end of trouble. She went to Paris once unattended. At another time she roamed around Heidelberg and slashed a fencing master. She had donned a student's garb. She is said to be the finest swordswoman on the continent. Yet notwithstanding her caprices she is a noble minded woman. She does all these things called social vagaries because she has a fine scorn for the innate hypocrisy of the social organization of this country. She loves freedom not wisely, but too well. To go

"Monsieur wrongs me also," she said: "In what are termed my escapades I am alone. You appealed to me," with a directness which amazed me, "because of your handsome face, your elegant form, your bright eyes. You are a man who loves adventure which has the spice of danger in it. My countrymen"- She crooked one of her bare shoulders, which shone like yellow ivory in the subdued light. This rank flattery cooled me. A woman who has any regard for a man is not likely to flatter him in respect to his looks on so short and slight an acquaintance. "Monsieur," she proceeded, "this is to be no

escapade, no caprice. I ask your aid as a desperate woman. At court I can find no one to succor me save at the peril of that which is dearer to me than my life. Among the commoners who would dare? An Englishman? It is too much trouble. A Frenchman? I would trust him not quite so far as the door. You are the first American not connected with the legation I have ev er met. Will you help me?"

"If what you ask me to do is within my capabilities, I am yours to com-

"The reward will be small." As if to

"There will be danger." she persisted; "secret danger. There will be scan-

"The more danger the merrier," I "Ah, yes," smiling; "it is the man of

I leaned over the table and inhaled the ineffable perfumes which emanated from her person. Teil me from what must I succor the princess? Is she a prisoner in a eastle over which some ogre rules? Well, then, I'll be Sir Galahad." My jesting tone jarred on her nerves. She straightened in her

"Monsieur is amused," she said cold-

Deafness Cannot be Cured

by local applications as they cannot en I returned to my seat, I found reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, e an affirmative gesture and was and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an infiamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condi tion, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarch, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

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"And he asks a thousand pardous." cried contritely. "Command me," and I grew chilled and serious. "You have heard that I am to wed

Prince Ernst of Wortumborg?" "Yes." I gnawed the ends of my

mustache.

"Monsieur, it is against my will, my whole being. I have no desire to contribute a principality and a wife to a man who is not worthy of one or the other. I refuse to become the king's puppet notwithstanding his power to take away my principality and leave me comparatively without resources. I detest this man so thoroughly that I cannot hate him. I abhor him. It is you who must save me from him. It is you who must also save me my principality. Oh, they envy me, these poor people, because I am a princess, because I dwell in the tinsel glitter of the court. Could they but know how i envy their lives, their homes, their humble ambitions! Believe me, monsieur, as yet I love no man. But that is no reason why I should link my life to that of a man to whom virtue in a woman means nothing. He caused my mother great sorrow. He came between her and my father. He spoiled her life. Now he wisnes to spoil mine.



"The prince will be in Brussels. You are to come in his stead." But I will not have it so. I will give

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The taint of decaying particles of food is absolute poison.



up my principality rather. But first lei me try to see if I cannot retain the one and rid myself of the other. Listen. Tomorrow night there will be a dinner here. The king and the inner court will hold forth. But they will cast aside their pomp and become for the time being ordinary people. The prince will be in Brussels and therefore unable to attend. You are to come in his

stead." "I?" in astonishment.

"Even so," she smiled. "While the festivities are at their height you and I will secretly leave and return to the city. We shall go immediately to the station, thence to France."

I looked at her as one in a dream. "I-You! Thence to France?"

CHAPTER V.

Hillars went to the sideboard and emptied half a glass of brandy. Coming back to his chair, he remained in a reverie for a short time. Then he resumed his narrative:

The princess looked up into my face and smiled.

"Yes; thence to France. Ah, I could go alone. But listen, monsieur. Above all things there must be a scandal. A princess elopes with an American ad- ture was all so unheard of for these venturer. The prince will withdraw prosaic times! And so full of the give me, but I will risk it. He is still not been a man, not to have fallen a somewhat fond of me notwithstanding victim. What possibilities suggested the worry I have caused him. This way is the only method by which I may convince him how detestable this ebragement is to me. Yet my freedom is more to me than my principality Let the king bestow it upon whom he

will, a shall become a teacher of languages or something of that sort. I shall be free and happy. Oh, you will have a merry tale to tell, a merry adventure. You will return to your country. You will be the envy of your compatriots. You will recount at your clubs a story such as men read, but never hear told." She was growing a

The Best Plaster.

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ort hysterical. As she looked at me she saw that my face was grave.

"Is there no other way?" I asked. "Can it not be accomplished without

"No. There must be scandal. Otherwise I should be brought back and forgiven, and no one would know. In a certain sense I am valuable. The Hoof an idol to them. The king appreciates my rule. It gives him a knowledge that there will be no internal

troubles in Hohenphalia so long as matters stand as they now do. Still, there are limits to the king's patience, and I am about to try them severely. But monsieur hesitates. He will withdraw his promise."

"No, your highness," said I. "I have given my word. As for the scandal, it is not for myself that I care. It will be a jolly adventure for me, and then I and left with the host together with shall have such a clever story to tell | my address. my friends at the clubs."

She saw that I was offended. "Forgive me, monsieur. I know that you would do no such thing. But let me explain to you. At the station we will king to a man in love? Presently we be intercepted by two trusted and high | two were alone in the garden, the prinofficials at court."

"What!" I exclaimed. "Do they

"No, but I shall write to them anonymously, the note to be placed in their hands immediately we leave the prem-

I looked at the woman in wonder. "But this is madness!" I cried.

"Directly you will see the method in an American. Oh, it is a well laid capable of understanding my offense.

not w " !!" !!! told was more than I been.

man. One of you bind the other or 1 going away together." fire!' It will be done. You will spring upon the remaining one, and I will help you to bind him likewise. Oh, you will accomplish it well. You are a strong man. Moreover, you are rapid."

was a woman of details. I had never orders of the stomach arise, biliousness,

met one before. "Well, does monsieur accept the ad-There was a subtle taunt in her tones. lets when required. They are so easy to

That decided me. "Your highness, I should be happy to sale by Wight & Bro.

neet a thousand unlans to do you service. What you ask me to do is quite simple." I new that I should lose my head in case of failure. I rose and bowed as unconcernedly as though she had but asked me to join her with a cup of tea.

"Ah, monsidur, you are a man!" And she laughed softly as she saw me throw back my shoulders. There was then. I might have known. Could unmistakable admiration in her eyes. "And yet." with a sudden frown, laughed contemptuously. "You would "there will be danger. You may slip. You may become injured. Yes, there is danger."

"Your hightless," said I lowly, compelling her eyes to meet mine, "it is no! the danger of the adventure or its results that I most fear." I was honest enough to make my meaning clear.

She blushed! "I said that I trusted monsieur's honor," was her rejoinder. "Come," with a return of her imperiousness, "it is time that we were gone." She drew on her cloak and dropped the veil. "I might add." she said, "that we will remain in France one hour. From there you may go your way, and I shall go secretly to my palace."

And the glamour fell away like the last leaves of the year.

I had to wake up the driver, who had fallen asleep. "Where shall I say?" I asked.

"To your hotel. I shall give the driver the remaining instructions."

"But you haven't told me." said I, as I took my place in the carriage, "how I am to become a guest at the dinner tomorrow evening."

"I spoke to the king this morning. 1 said that I had a caprice. He replied that if I would promise it to be my last he would grant it. I promised. I said that it was my desire to bring to the dinner a person who though without rank was a gentleman, one who would grace any gathering, kingly or otherwise. My word was sufficient. I knew before i asked you that you would come. Twenty-four hours from now we-that is, you and I-will be on the way to the French frontier. I shall be ever in your delir'

Silence fell upon us. I knew that I loved her with a love that was burning me up, consuming me. And the adventhemselves to me as on we rode! Once across the frontier I should be free to confess my love for her. A princess? What of that? She would be only a woman-the woman I loved. I trembled. Something might happen so that she would have to turn to me. If the king refused to forgive her, she was mine! Ah, that plain carriage held a wonderful dream that night. At length -too shortly for ine-the vehicle drew up in front of his hotel. As I was about to alight her hand stretched toward me. But instead of kissing it I pressed my lips on her round white arm. As though my lips burned, she

"Have a care, monsieur; have a care," she said icily. "Such a kiss has

I stammered an apology and stepped | Ar Live Oak night, Mr. Hillars. You are a brave Ly Jacksonville......

The door closed, and the vehicle sped | Ar Columbia away into the darkness. 1 stood look- Ar Canden ing after it, bewildered. Her last Ar Raleigh.... words were spoken in pure English.

With the following evening came the dinner, and I as a guest-a nervous, self conscious guest who started at every footstep. I was presented to the king, who eyed me curiously. Seeing that I wore a medal such as his chancellor gives to men who sometimes do his country service, he spoke to me and henphalians love me. I am something inquired how I had obtained it. It was an affair similar to the Balkistan, only there was not an army, but a mob. The princess was enchanting. I grew reekless and let her read my eyes more than once, but she pretended not to see what was in them... At dinner a toast was given to his majesty. It was made with those steins I showed you, Jack.

> The princess said softly to me, kissing the rim of the stein she held. "My toast is not to the king, but to the gentleman!" I had both steins bundled up

It was not long after that the eventful moment for our flight arrived. I knew that I was basely to abuse the hospitality of the king. But what is a cess and myself. She was whispering instructions, telling me that I was a man of courage.

"It is not too late to back out," she

"I would face a thousand kings rath-

We could see at the gate the carriage which was to take us to the station. Now came the moment when I was the madness. Without their knowing tried by the crucible and found to be other witnesses who will not be par- my arms were around her lithe body; ticipants. Through them it will be my lips met hers squarely. After it come known that I have eloped with was done she stood very still, as if inout I understood. I was overwhelmed with remorse, love and regret. I had mysel ... and for fift and I know made impossible what might have

had by the for. "Your highness," I cried, "I could "Ne the I'ded will happen, not help it! Before God I could not! Mons.... 1 " " stel " seh It is because I love you better than hand when the carriage door is open- | anything in the world-you cannot be ed. You will say: 'I am'a desperate of it-and all this is impossible, this

I sat in my chair, speechless. Here day. When this is not attended to, disventure or does he politely decline?" | Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tabtake and mild and gentle in effect. For

> Army person your seguit . The American is all all measured within a little of

'I'will give you one minute to leave this place," she said, her tones as even and as cold as sudden repression wrath could make them. "I truste you, and you have dared to take at vantage of what seemed my helples ness. It is well indeed for you that you committed this outrage before is too late. I should have killed you ever a woman trust a man?" She have made me a thing of scorn, and trusted you!"

"As God is my judge." I cried, "my respect for you is as high as heaven

itself! I love you. Is there nothing in that? I am but human. I am not a stone image. And you have tempted me beyond all control. Pardon what I have done. It was not the want of respect"-

"Spare me your protestations. I believe your minute is nearly gone," she interrupted.

And then-there was a crunch on the gravel behind us. The princess and I turned in dismay. We had forgotten all about the anonymous note. Two officers were approaching us and rapidly. The elder of the two cam-

(Continued on Third Page)

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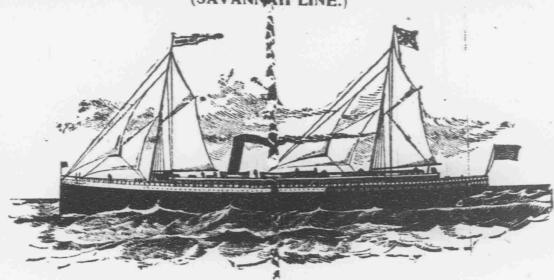
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try to stop us. You will overpower and blunder of my life. My love suddenly bind them. There will also be several overleaped its bounds. In a moment other witnesses who will not be seen as a moment of the stop F. W. ARMSTRONG, Gen. Pass. Agt., Tallahassee, Fla. eave Carrabelle daily, 11:00 a. m.

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